

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 771

Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Mesothelioma Awareness Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. LANCE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Mesothelioma Awareness Day.

Whereas mesothelioma is a terminal, asbestos-related cancer that affects the linings of the lungs, abdomen, heart, or testicles;

Whereas workers exposed on a daily basis over a long period of time are most at risk, but even short-term exposures can cause the disease and an exposure to asbestos for as little as one month can result in mesothelioma 20–50 years later;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of virtually all office buildings, public schools, and homes built before 1975 and asbestos is still on the United States market in over 3,000 products;

Whereas there is no known safe level of exposure to asbestos;

Whereas millions of workers in the United States have been,
and continue to be, exposed to dangerous levels of asbestos;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health reported to Congress in 2006 that mesothelioma is a difficult disease to detect, diagnose, and treat;

Whereas the National Cancer Institute recognizes a clear need for new agents to improve the outlook for patients with mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas for decades, the need to develop treatments for mesothelioma was overlooked and today, even the best available treatments usually have only a very limited effect and the expected survival time of those diagnosed with the disease is between 8 and 14 months;

Whereas mesothelioma has claimed the lives of such heroes and public servants as Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Jr., and Congressman Bruce F. Vento, and a high percentage of today's mesothelioma victims were exposed to asbestos while serving in the United States Navy;

Whereas it is believed that many of the firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers from Ground Zero on September 11, 2001, may be at increased risk of contracting mesothelioma in the future;

Whereas the establishment of a National Mesothelioma Awareness Day would raise public awareness of the disease and of the need to develop treatments and enhance public awareness for it; and

Whereas cities and localities across the country are recognizing September 26 as Mesothelioma Awareness Day:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of Mesothe-
3 lioma Awareness Day; and
4 (2) urges the President to issue a proclamation
5 calling on the people of the United States, Federal
6 departments and agencies, States, localities, organi-
7 zations, and media to annually observe a National
8 Mesothelioma Awareness day with appropriate cere-
9 monies and activities.

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